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(e) There was no necessity to do so.
(f) Does not arise.

Free supply of copies of copper-plate inscriptions in the Government Museum.

*1123 Q.—Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that, till recently, the Government have been supplying scholars, on requisition, copies of copper-plate and stone inscriptions, in the Government Museum, free of cost;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Superintendent of the Government Museum has been demanding, for sometime past, eight annas per page for copying the copper-plate inscriptions, and one rupee for a square foot for copying the stone inscriptions; and

(c) whether the Government propose to direct the Superintendent of the Museum to supply copies free of any cost?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The number of requisitions for copies of inscriptions has increased enormously of late and this has seriously interfered with the work of the Archæological Assistant employed in the Museum. Further, the taking of impressions is very apt to harm the original inscriptions. Facilities are however given to scholars to refer to the original inscriptions and to transcribe them without taking impressions. The Government do not therefore propose to interfere in the matter.

Local Boards

Nominations to taluk boards in North Arcot district.

*1124 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state, with reference to the answer to question No. 42 answered on 3rd September 1928 regarding nominations to taluk boards in North Arcot district—

(a) whether the report called for has been received from the president of the district board;

(b) how many candidates who stood for elections to the presidentships of local boards in North Arcot district were men who had been nominated by the President, District Board, North Arcot, with their names, and castes, and the number of already existing members belonging to those communities, on these boards;

(c) whether it is a fact that no Christian or Muhammadan was appointed to some boards and if so, why;

(d) whether the Government propose to frame rules reserving powers to Government to cancel such nominations; and

(e) why the Government have not dealt with such cases exemplarily in order that such misconduct may not recur?

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A.—(*a*) Yes. Three statements[a] are laid on the table showing the vacancies which occurred in the taluk boards in the North Arcot district (*a*) at the end of March 1928 and (*b*) subsequent to 31st March 1928 and the nominations made by the President, District Board, to fill them, and (*c*) the number of members of each caste on the taluk boards previous to these nominations.

(*b*) Two, viz., M.R.Ry. A. Raghavulu Nayudu Garu, President, Taluk Board, Ranipet (Kammavar), and M.R.Ry. M. B. Rangaswami Reddi Avargal, President, Taluk Board, Tiruvannamalai Taluk Board (Reddi). There were already one Kamma and five Reddis respectively on the Ranipet and Tiruvannamalai Taluk Boards.

(*c*) There were Indian Christians and Muhammadans on all the taluk boards.

(*d*) The question of framing rules reserving powers to Government to cancel improper nomination will be considered if the system of nominations is not superseded as proposed in the draft Bill to amend the Local Boards Act, 1920.

(*e*) The attention of the Member is invited to section 9 (4) (*b*) of the Local Boards Act under which the power to appoint members of taluk boards is vested in the President, District Board.

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—"May I know from the hon. the Minister how many Muslims there are on the board ?" 11-15 a.m.

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"Which board ?"

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—"Any one of these boards."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"The question is with regard to taluk boards, and I will have to make an enquiry about that."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Is the hon. the Minister satisfied that there is adequate representation of Indian Christians and Muhammadans on these boards ? There is only one I think."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"As a matter of fact it was in answer to another question put in this Council some time ago, the Government stated that they were not satisfied with the way in which these nominations are being made to these taluk boards. But as the Local Boards Act stands at present, the Government cannot interfere with the discretion of the district board presidents in making nominations to the taluk boards."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Will the Act be amended to remove this anomaly ?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"If the hon. Member has seen the Government Bill he will find that it is proposed to abolish nominations altogether."

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[a]Printed as Appendix VIII on pages 300–303 infra.